

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
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AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NY
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E. O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV PL IS HU
SUBJ: ISRAELI DELEGATION IN POLAND

REF.: WARSAW 3307

1. ISRAEL MEDIA HAVE GIVEN SOME ATTENTION OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS TO THE PARTICIPATION BY AN ISRAELI DELEGATION IN POLISH CEREMONIES COMMEMORATING THE HOLOCAUST AND THE WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING. DR NAHUM GOLDMAN, FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS, IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE EVENTS THERE-- THE RE-OPENING OF THE JEWISH EXHIBIT AT THE AUSCHWITZ MEMORIAL, THE ISSUING OF AWARDS AT A PUBLIC CEREMONY IN WARSAW TO POLES WHO SAVED JEWS, AND THE PRESENCE OF ISRAELIS FOR THE FIRST TIME AT THE ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY FOR THE GHETTO UPRISING-- MARK THE BEGINNING OF A NEW POLISH POLICY TOWARDS THE JEWS (WHICH HERETOFORE HAD DISAVOWED ANY OBLIGATION TOWARD THE JEWISH PEOPLE) AND DEMONSTRATE A NEW FRIENDLINESS TOWARDS
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ISRAEL.

2. THE CHIEF EDITOR OF INTERPRESS, THE POLISH NEWS AGENCY, REPORTEDLY CONFIRMED TO A JERUSALEM POST REPORTER "THAT POLAND IS INTERESTED IN GETTING A GOOD PRESS AND HOPES FOR SPEEDY IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES." IN ADDITION TO THE FAVORABLE PRESS COVERAGE WHICH THESE EVENTS HAVE RE-

CEIVED HERE, A POLISH DELEGATION VISITING ISRAEL IN HONOR OF THE EDUCATOR JANUSZ KORCZAK HAS BEEN WELL RECEIVED.

3. YEDIOT AHARANOT ON APRIL 19 REPORTED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN "UN-OFFICIAL HINTS THAT THE POLISH AND HUNGARIAN HEADS OF STATE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IMPROVEMENTS IN THEIR NATIONS' RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AND WITH WORLD JEWRY. THE ARTICLE ADDS, HOWEVER, THAT "AT SAME TIME THE LEADERS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES HINTED THAT THE TIME FOR RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL IS NOT YET RIPE SINCE THERE HAS NOT BEEN A SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN THE PEACE PROCESS IN THE AREA."

4. COMMENT: DURING THE PAST YEAR, THERE HAS BEEN PERIODIC SPECULATION HERE THAT POLAND AND ISRAEL MIGHT MOVE TOWARDS BROADER CONTACTS AND POSSIBLE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. THIS IDEA HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT REINFORCED BY ISRAEL'S RELATIONS WITH ROMANIA AND BY THE MEETINGS WHICH BEGIN AND DAYAN HAVE HAD WITH CEAUS-ESCU. MANY ISRAELIS WOULD LIKE TO SEE SIMILAR PROGRESS WITH POLAND AND ARE WILLING TO RESERVE JUDGMENT ON COMMONLY EXPRESSED CAVEATS THAT POLAND'S TRUE MOTIVE MAY BE TO GAIN JEWISH TOURIST REVENUE AND JEWISH SUPPORT IN THE U S CONGRESS FOR MFN STATUS. RECENT EVENTS IN POLAND ARE CONSIDERED TO BE A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION; HOWEVER, CHANCES FOR EXPANDED CONTACTS ARE NOT AS FAVORABLE WITH HUNGARY.

5. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE MFA'S EASTERN EUROPE DIVISION, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT WE MIGHT EXPECT TO SEE SOME IMPROVEMENTS IN ATMOSPHERE AND BETTER CONTACTS BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL EASTERN EUROPEAN NATIONS AND THE WORLD JEWISH COMMUNITY, BUT THAT ANY MAJOR CHANGES FOR THE PRESENT IN THE BI-LATERAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH ISRAEL REMAIN UNLIKELY. END COMMENT. LEWIS

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